

Sunday 13th September 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Affirmation

Disciples and doubters,
foolish and fearless,
we are all God's people,
and He welcomes us all
We draw near Him and worship.

Hymn: StF 59

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words
or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rce9UHYZwl4>

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon
us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring
us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus:- Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and
mercy;
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome
presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your
brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my

darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your
story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

Let us pray together

Lord you have created a world full of
people
A universe full of planets and stars
You sent us your Son Jesus
To show us how to live in our world
May we have the grace to follow Him.

Amen

Loving God, we are sorry
when we have wandered far from you.
when we have not listened to your
voice
and listened instead to other voices –
the voices of greed, and selfishness,
you have offered us abundance of life,
but we have settled for so much less.
Forgive us

Assurance of pardon

In Jesus we have been forgiven
So let us live as one who is forgiven,
in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew
18:21-35**

**Time to Reflect – think about
*Unlimited forgiveness, - how easy is
it to forgive, - can we move on from
the hurt we feel written by Deacon
Gail***

I wonder have you ever forgiven someone for really hurting you? Or have you been forgiven by someone else? Do you find forgiving easy? Have you ever said or thought, 'I'll forgive you, just this once!'? or 'I'll never forgive that person for what they did'?

Our reading today, continues Matthew's conversations about community life and discipline. Peter is asking Jesus what he ought to do about forgiveness and then Jesus' parable quite strongly telling the disciples that they must be willing to forgive others, even as God has forgiven them.

And so, Peter asks the question 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus answers Peter no that's not enough, but seventy-seven times in other words every time.

But is it that easy to forgive? Broken relationships can make us feel so hurt, so broken and the last thing we could ever imagine is forgiving someone. To forgive someone we might know in our head is the right thing to do but our heart feels paralysed to even

contemplate taking this course of action.

I have witnessed people who through unforgiveness become bitter and their lives are broken. On the other hand I know what truly forgiving someone costs It is costly, but when you come to the realisation of the act of love that happened on the cross through Jesus, it is at that moment that you are able to choose to forgive that person for the wrongdoing they did. It is not saying you forget as the saying goes 'forgive and forget' because I actually don't believe that but rather you are choosing to forgive that person and to move on surrounded by God's unconditional love.

In church community's forgiveness can enable the Holy Spirit to bring about freedom, wholeness and love and enable people to witness to that love.

I have a card on my desk which is a paraphrase of Ephesians 1:1 – 2:10 which says this 'I am deeply loved by God completely forgiven, fully pleasing, totally accepted, powerfully equipped and complete in Christ.' How wonderful is that.

Reflect on this passage, how does it speak to you. Are there people you need to forgive? If there are I pray that in Jesus' name you will be able to say, 'I choose to forgive for (whatever they have done) and ask that through you grace I may know forgiveness.' God asks us to let go, to lay our burdens at His feet. By forgiving we

are showing to others God's
extravagant love. Amen.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving and forgiving God
We pray for our world today
As we bring the virus under control
Help and guide Prime ministers,
Presidents, Kings and Queens, all
types of workers around the world
Parents and children
And all who have lost loved ones
may they feel your love this week as
they go about their work. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to 'Lord I come to you'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL1POv2eY04>

Lord I come to You,
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I've found in You
Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love

*Chorus - Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love*

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life

In living every day
By the power of Your love

Chorus

A prayer of blessing

StF771

May the love of the Lord rest upon
your soul
May his love dwell in you throughout
every day
May his Countenance shine upon you
and be gracious to you
May His Spirit be upon you as you
leave this place. Amen

Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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